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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/854,721

05/15/2001

Kevin Rowney

2829-131

8663

6449

7590

05/09/2006

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EXAMINER

RETTA, YEHDEGA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3622

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/854,721

Applicant(s)

ROWNEY ET AL.

Examiner

Yehdega Retta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restrictions

- I. Claims 1-6, drawn to offering points by site owner for performing activity at an affiliate site, classified in class 705, subclass 14.
- II. Claims 7-16, drawn to decrypting and validating user and redirecting user to an affiliate site, classified in class 705, subclass 14.
- III. Claim 17, drawn to a first site owner and a second site owner, classified in class 705, subclass 14.
- IV. Claims 18 and 19, drawn to a first and a secure communication for transferring data between the first and second entity computer system, classified in class 705, subclass 14.
- V. Claim 20, drawn to offering the affiliate to compensate the site owner, classified in class 705, subclass 14.
- VI. Claim 21, drawn to second entity to compensate the first entity and the first entity to compensate the second entity, classified in class 705, subclass 14.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the decrypting, validating, redirecting of the user and the secure communication for transferring data is a particular feature of the subcombination. The subcombination has

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separate utility such as decrypting, validating and redirecting the user. Examiner considers since applicant independently claim the invention of this group, it is a prima facie showing that the inventions are intended to be independent and distinct and are shown to be separately usable.

Inventions III and I-II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the second link in a second site owner and a second reward estimator for calculating and tracking of the second site owner points is a particular feature of the subcombination. The subcombination has separate utility such as a second site owner. Examiner considers since applicant independently claim the invention of this group, it is a prima facie showing that the inventions are intended to be independent and distinct and are shown to be separately usable.

Inventions IV and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because decrypting link data and secure communication for transferring data is a particular feature of the subcombination. The subcombination has separate utility such as a second decryption and secure communication. Examiner considers since applicant independently

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claim the invention of this group, it is a prima facie showing that the inventions are intended to be independent and distinct and are shown to be separately usable.

Inventions IV and I-II, V and VI are related as combination and subcombination.

Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because second link in a second entity and a second reward estimator for calculating and tracking of the second site entity points is a particular feature of the subcombination. The subcombination has separate utility such as a second decryption and secure communication.

Examiner considers since applicant independently claim the invention of this group, it is a prima facie showing that the inventions are intended to be independent and distinct and are shown to be separately usable.

Inventions V and I-IV and VI are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the affiliate or second entity compensating the site owner or first entity to is a particular feature of the subcombination. The subcombination has separate utility such as compensating the site owner by the affiliate. Examiner considers since applicant independently

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claim the invention of this group, it is a prima facie showing that the inventions are intended to be independent and distinct and are shown to be separately usable.

Inventions VI and I-V are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because offering by the second entity award points for user performing a second qualifying activity involving the first entity and offering by the first entity to compensate the second entity for the user completing the activity is a particular feature of the subcombination. The subcombination has separate utility such as a the second entity offering user for performing activity at the first entity and the first entity offering compensation to the second entity. Examiner considers since applicant independently claim the invention of this group, it is a prima facie showing that the inventions are intended to be independent and distinct and are shown to be separately usable.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yehdega Retta whose telephone number is (571) 272-6723. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YR


RETTA YEHDEGA
PRIMARY EXAMINER